

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /035 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GSCOTT:AB
APPROVED BY AF/E:RPOST
AF/P:RWHOLLIDAY

-----122452 200141Z /63

P R 200051Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SO, SOPN, MASS

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON SOMALIA

FOLLOWING IS LATEST PRESS GUIDANCE ON SALIENT ISSUES IN US/
SOMALI RELATIONS FOR POSTS' INFORMATION. QUESTIONS ON
THESE SUBJECTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ASKED IN DEPT. BRIEFINGS.

QUESTION: WHAT IS US POLICY TOWARDS SOMALIA?

ANSWER: WE HAVE LONG WANTED BETTER RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA
AND ARE PLEASED THAT THIS DESIRE IS SHARED BY THE SOMALI
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GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE INFORMED PRESIDENT SIAD THAT WE ARE
REINSTITUTING A DEVELOPMENT AID PROGRAM, AND ARE NOW
STUDYING THE REPORT OF AN AID SURVEY TEAM WHICH WENT TO
SOMALIA IN MAY.

QUESTION: WHY DID THE US CUT OFF ECONOMIC AID IN 1969?

ANSWER: THE US DID NOT CUT OFF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA UNTIL THE SUMMER OF 1970, AND THEN ONLY AFTER EXPLAINING TO THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT WELL IN ADVANCE THAT WE WERE REQUIRED BY LEGISLATION TO DO SO AS A RESULT OF CONTINUED TRADING OF SOMALI FLAG VESSELS WITH NORTH VIET NAM AND CUBA. THIS ACTION DID NOT, HOWEVER, END ALL ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA. WE RESPONDED QUICKLY TO MOGADISCIO'S REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY DROUGHT AID BY SENDING A NUMBER OF SHIPMENTS OF FOODSTUFFS AND GRAIN TO SOMALIA. OUR FOOD AID WAS, IN FACT, THE FIRST TO ARRIVE IN RESPONSE TO THE SOMALI GENERAL APPEAL IN DECEMBER 1974. THE VALUE OF US FOOD SHIPMENTS FROM 1974 TO 1976 WAS OVER DOLS 12 MILLION.

(IF ASKED ONLY)

QUESTION: IS THE ADMINISTRATION WILLING TO DELIVER ARMS TO SOMALIA?

ANSWER: THE QUESTION OF US ARMS FOR SOMALIA IS ONE WHICH HAS TO BE STUDIED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR OVERALL ARMS TRANSFER POLICY. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GROWING CONFLICT IN THE HORN THROUGH ARMS TRANSFERS, BUT WE ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING THAT SOMALIA AND OTHER STATES MEET THEIR LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS.

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(IF PRESSED) - I CANNOT ADDRESS THE QUESTION MORE SPECIFICALLY NOW. THE QUESTION OF ANY US ARMS TO SOMALIA IS ONE WHICH WE ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO DISCUSS.

QUESTION: CAN THE DEPARTMENT CONFIRM THE STORIES THAT SOVIET ADVISORS ARE LEAVING SOMALIA?

ANSWER: WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS INDICATING THAT SOME SOVIET PERSONNEL ARE LEAVING SOMALIA, BUT WE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT ANY WHOLESAL EXODUS OF SOVIET PERSONNEL IS TAKING PLACE.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE168828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GSCOTT:AB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770257-0125
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770737/aaaabgbv.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 07170467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1802483
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE ON SOMALIA FOLLOWING IS LATEST PRESS GUIDANCE ON SALIENT ISSUES IN US/ SOMALI RELATIONS FOR POSTSV INFORMATION. QUESTION
TAGS: SOPN, MASS, SO, US
To: MOGADISCIO
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/07170467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009